

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Election/Restrictions

Applicants hereby elect Group II, including claims 31-38 directed to a system having a storage system that is owned by an owner and rented to a user, as defined by the Examiner. Claims 21-30 and 39-43 are withdrawn.

Priority

Applicants request the acknowledgment of the claim for priority. The priority document (JP 2001-117611, filed April 17, 2001) was filed in the parent application, serial no. 09/987,815, November 16, 2001, and is referred to in the Official Filing Receipt dated January 6, 2004.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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